

KARTIK HANDBOOK



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Includes

- Śrī Bhajan Rahasya in brief (with Asta-kaliya-yam kirtan)
- Śrī Girirāja-Govardhana
- Śrī Dāmodarāṣṭakam

by

His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhakti Ballabh Tīrtha Goswāmī Mahārāj

All Glory to Sree Guru and Gauranga.

Kartik Handbook

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Back Cover

Śrīla Prabhupād established the practice of śravan-kīrtan of aṣṭa-kālīya līlā (hearing and chanting of Kṛṣṇa's pastimes during the eight periods of the day) to observe Kārtik-vrata (spiritual vow during the holy month of Kartik).

Śrī Bhajana Rahasya is compiled by Śrīmad Bhaktivinode Ṭhākura. In the form of this book he has given a hint of his own method of bhajana so that his sincere followers may have a guideline.

Here, Śrīmad Bhaktivinode Ṭhākura systematically discusses the different stages of devotion beginning with śraddhā up to prema. He bases this development on the Śikṣāṣṭaka, supporting his comments with references from Śrīmad Bhāgavatam and various Goswāmī scriptures.

Śrī Bhajan Rahasya in brief

by Śrīla Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaj

Introduction to Śrī Bhajan Rahasya by Śrīla Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati
Goswami Thakur

Rahasyer Prāgbandha

*[Prior obligatory regulation for being eligible
to realize ontological mystery of Bhajan]*

‘Śrī Bhajan-Rahasya’— Book is compiled by Revered Śrīla Bhaktivinode Thākura. He has shown a few hints about his own mode of worship in the form of a book as an instance to his own devoted followers. I, being an insignificant person, observed him a few years before, overwhelmed with Transcendental Divine Love while relishing several scriptural verses incessantly in this way.

[There are stages of advancement of pure devotion— First stage— ‘Kaniṣṭha’, second higher stage— ‘Madhyam’ (middle) and third highest stage— ‘Uttam’. Accurate understanding of the words ‘Kaniṣṭha’, ‘Madhyam’ and ‘Uttam’ is necessary for proper realization of the ontological mystery of Bhajan as expounded or interpreted by Śrīla Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Goswāmī Thākura.]

Provision for ‘Arcan’— Worship of Deities is recommended in the domain of pure devotion in consideration of the eligibility of the devoutness of ‘Kaniṣṭha devotee’— first advanced stage of devotion. Many votaries being unable to reflect upon the distinction between ‘Arcan’ and ‘Bhajan’ indicate the words to be same, as ‘Arcan’ is ‘Bhajan’. When bhajan is possible on the basis of nine forms of devotion, as ‘Arcan’ is included within it, ‘Arcan’ should be accepted as ‘Bhajan’, that is their idea. Total bhajan and practice of one form of bhajan, at least of the aforesaid first

advanced stage of devotion, should not be considered to indicate the same significance.

There are two kinds of worship— (1) Worship of Deities with the help of articles and with reverence is 'Arcan'. (2) Service of the object of worship with the feeling of eternal sweet delightful relation, viz. delightful relation between devotee and devoted as bosom friends, sweet parental affection without the obstruction of fear and reverence etc. are referred to as 'Prema'. There is a gulf of difference between these two ways of service of the Object of worship. Arcan is connected with the worship of Deity with reverence. Without sweet delightful eternal relation, there cannot be total service of the Highest Objective Supreme Lord.

Worship of Deity—Supreme Lord in consideration of His appearance in this world, with articles and reverence is termed 'Arcan'. Although in spite of the cognition of the dimness of the scorching rays of reverential majestic worship in this world, excellence of the sweetness of the service of the Deity with delightful charming love-relation like pleasant moonlight, cannot be denied. A brief method of worship (Arcan) is annexed to the appendix of the book. The underlying implication of bhajan is stated in the body of the book. Relation with gross and subtle bodies is more or less involved in 'Arcan', while in the domain of bhajan, the devotee is directly in contact with the object of devotion Supreme Lord Bhagavān, Who is beyond gross and subtle bodies and is the Indwelling Monitor residing in the hearts of all embodied souls. A true devoted soul is well-established in his real self and is completely liberated from all non-eternal material denominations, his cognitions of the sense-organs are spiritual, beyond the thought of material range. As they are always directly in contact with Absolute Knowledge, Who is Transcendental, they are always engaged in transcendental service of the Divinity. Speciality of the instructive object of Guru is considered Rahasya (Mystery) which can only be comprehended by persons who have got firm faith and confidence.

Truly following the path of bona fide sādhus, association of whom can be achieved only by the fruits of serving the third advanced stage of highest devotees, who have received instructions of Kṛṣṇa-bhakti after practising the list of Sādhana-bhakti, mentioned in 'Śrī Bhakti-Rasāmṛta-

Sindhu', is actual Bhajan-Rahasya (mystery of bhajan). Desireless modest devout devotee, being fully liberated from worldly entanglement, is completely released from the association of uncongenial persons disinclined to serve Kṛṣṇa and entrapped with ulterior desires. Just then only, total service or service of eight periods of the pastimes of Śrī Kṛṣṇa can be manifested in him. Pure devotee who is inclined to serve Śrī Kṛṣṇa always dislikes the association of enjoyers of earthly pleasures (Bhogis) and renouncers (Tyagis), as he knows the association of such non-devotees is an obstacle to the achievement of his objective. Such 'Karmīs', 'Jñānīs' or persons of ulterior desires have got no liking for Bhajan-Rahasya. As they have got no eligibility to enter into the eight periods of pastimes of Śrī Kṛṣṇa in the Transcendental Realm, this book (Bhajan-Rahasya) cannot become always very appreciative to them.

Day and night (24 hours) is divided into eight periods. One period is stated as 'Yam'. Night consists of three yams (three periods), day consists of three yams (three periods), along with these six periods, if 'dawn' and 'dusk' are added, sum total— 8 periods.

It is possible only for a Vaiṣṇava to worship Śrī Kṛṣṇa all the time in all respects with profound devoutness. With wrong conception of self, other than the real self eternally related to Śrī Kṛṣṇa, it is not possible to worship Kṛṣṇa all the time. A conditioned soul cannot release him from his encagement if he attributes materiality to all things or articles related to the service of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Vaiṣṇavas having the firmness of the realization of their real self are always in worshipful mood. They cannot do any action except service of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Eight verses of Śikṣāṣṭaka of Śrī Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu are in conformity with the pastimes of Śrī Kṛṣṇa of the eight periods (Aṣṭayāma). Eleven verses of Sri Rūpa Goswāmi and hymns written by his personal associates to increase eagerness of Bhajan, conforming to eight pastimes will be congenial for incessant Bhajan. Sincere servitors of Guru will always discuss these verses, being completely relieved from the influence of material time, space, and so called deserving or undeserving persons of the world.

Kanpur
13th November, 1927

Harijanakinkar,
(servant of the associates of Śrī Hari)
Das Sri Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati

First Period of Devotional Practice (1st Yāma Sādhana)

Bhajan at close of night— Śraddhā (Firm Faith)

[Therefore, glow of the Holy Name can destroy all sins and deliver conditioned souls from worldly bondage. As for instance Śrī Bhakti-Rasāmṛta-Sindhu, Dakṣiṇ Part, 1/52:-]

*taṁ nirvyājam bhaja guṇa-nidhe pāvanam pāvanānām
śraddhā-rajyan-matir atitarām uttamaḥ-śloka-maulim
prodyann antaḥ-karaṇa-kuhare hanta yan-nāma-bhānor
ābhāso 'pi kṣapayati mahā-pātaka-dhvānta-rāsim*

That person is addressed as Guṇa-nidhe (one who is richly endowed with good qualities), who has got the aptitude to utter without delay, the Holiest Divine Name 'Kṛṣṇa', greatest Redeemer of all redeemers, with firm faith, without hypocrisy and with simple-heartedness. Why? Because the glow of the Holy Name Kṛṣṇa, like the glimpse of the light of Sun at dawn, entering into the cave of his heart, will destroy all great sins and nescience.

Srila Bhaktivinode Thākura's instruction (His own writing in Bengali):-

*parama pāvana kṛṣṇa tāṇhāra charaṇa,
niskapata śraddhā saha karaha bhajan,
jānra nāma suryābhās antare praveśi,
dhvaṁsa kare mahāpāp andhakārarāśi,
ei śikṣāṣṭake kahe kṛṣṇalīlā-kram,
ihāte bhajan krame līlāra udgam,
prathame prathama śloka bhaja kichu din,
dvitīya śloketē tabe hauta pravṇ*

Kṛṣṇa is the Supreme Redeemer. His Lotus Feet should be worshipped with firm faith and without deceitfulness. Glow of the Holy Name, like dawn of sunrise, entering into the heart, will destroy all great sins and remove all kinds of nescience— deep darkness. Gradual sequential development of the pastimes of Kṛṣṇa is narrated in Śikṣāṣṭaka. By this sequence of bhajan, pastimes will be manifested. At first, the first verse of

Śikṣāṣṭaka is to be practised for some days. Thereafter you become eligible for practice of second verse.

*chāri śloke kramaśaḥ bhajana pakkva kara,
pañcam śloketē nija siddha deha vara,
ei śloke siddhadehe rādhāpadāśraya,
ārambha kariyā krame unnati udaya,
chaya śloka bhajite anartha dure gela,
tabe jāna siddhadehe adhikāra haila,
adhikāra nā labhiyā siddhadeha bhāve,
viparjya buddhi janme śaktira abhāve*

Then by careful practice of the four verses of Śikṣāṣṭaka, gradually you acquire maturity in bhajan. After that, be eligible for achieving your realized eternal spiritual form by practising the fifth verse. Being well-established in the fifth verse, get the service of the Lotus Feet of Rādhārāni by attaining realized form. Advancement of bhajan will begin from this and will be developed. After being competent in realizing the transcendental sweet ecstatic feelings through practice of sixth verse, your attachment for ulterior reverse desires will be removed totally. Then actually you will be entitled to get eternal realized spiritual form. When eight principal modes of transcendental ecstatic feelings will be revealed, the criterion of your attainment of safety region is achieved. Without the manifestation of these ecstatic feelings, if any aspirant poses to get that realized state, it will be cause of disaster to him due to lack of intrinsic spiritual force from within.

*sāvadhāne krama dhara yadi siddhi cāo,
sādhura carita dekhi śuddha buddhi pāo,
siddhadeha peye krame bhajana karile,
aṣṭakāla sevāsukha anāyāse mile,
śikṣāṣṭaka cinta kara smaraṇa kīrtan,
krame aṣṭakāla-sevā habe uddīpana,
sakala anartha jābe pābe premadhana,
caturvarge phalguprāya habe adarśana*

If the aspirant wants to get realized state, he should very carefully accept the gradual procedure, strictly following the direction of pure devotee—

sādhū, which is the only way of getting eternal pure devotional wisdom. After being eligible for getting eternal realized spiritual form, by sincere bhajan the aspirant can attain easily transcendental blissful service of eight periods of pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Service of eight periods of pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa will be gradually manifested by incessantly thinking, remembering and singing of the eight verses of Śikṣāṣṭaka. By this devotional practice, all ulterior desires will be removed, the highest wealth of Transcendental Divine Love will be achieved and undercurrent flow of desires for Caturvarga—the four objects of human pursuits—mundane virtue, wealth, sensuous enjoyment and desire for salvation will disappear.

1st verse of Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka

*ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam bhava-mahā-dāvāgni-nirvāpaṇam
śreyah-kairava-candrikā-vitaraṇam vidyā-vadhū-jīvanam
ānandāmbudhi-varḍhanam prati-padam pūrṇāmṛtāsvādanam
sarvātma-snapanam param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam*

Chanting of the Holy Name Śrī Kṛṣṇa, completely, loudly in the company of devotees and without tenfold offences, which can bestow seven attainments— viz. cleansing of the mind-mirror, extinguishing of the forest fire of birth, death and threefold afflictions, bestowing eternal soothing benefit like moonlight, life of spiritual learning i.e. awakening of the real self, increasing of the ocean of bliss, bestowing at every step sweet taste of complete transcendental ambrosia, holy immersion of body-mind-real self— be supremely glorified.

Śikṣāṣṭaka Song 1 ~

pīta-varaṇa kali-pāvana gorā
gāoī aichana bhāva-vibhorā (1)

citta-darpaṇa-parimārjāṇa-kārī
kṛṣṇa-kīrtana jaya citta bihārī (2)

helā-bhava-dāva-nirvāpaṇa-vṛtti
kṛṣṇa-kīrtana jaya kleśa-nivṛtti (3)

śreyah-kumuda-vidhu-jyotsnā-prakāśa
kṛṣṇa-kīrtana jaya bhakti-vilāsa (4)

viśuddha-vidyā-vadhū jīvana-rūpa
kṛṣṇa-kīrtana jaya siddha-swarūpa (5)

ānanda-payo-nidhi-varadhana-kīrti
kṛṣṇa-kīrtana jaya plāvana-mūrti (6)

pade pade pīyūṣa-swāda-pradātā
kṛṣṇa-kīrtana jaya prema-vidhātā (7)

bhaktivinoda-svātma-snapana-vidhāna
kṛṣṇa-kīrtana jaya prema-nidāna (8)

Thinking of Kṛṣṇa-līlā (pastimes of Kṛṣṇa)

At the close of night absorbing meditation of the break of sleep of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa in their secret grove (Awakening song). Provision for relishing Kṛṣṇa-līlā— Transcendental sweet pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa can only be relished by Citta (mind) gradually. [Citta indicates store of thoughts. Actually, there is no synonym of 'Citta' in English.]

rātryante trasta-vṇderita bahu-viravairbodhitau kiraśārī
padyair-hṛdyair api sukha-śayanād-utthitau tau sakhibhiḥ
dṛṣṭau hr̥ṣṭau tadātvoditarati-lalitau kakkhaṭigīḥ saśaṅkau
rādhā-kṛṣṇau satṛṣṇāv api nija-nija dhāmyāpta talpau smarāmi
Govindalīlāmṛta 1.10

Vṛndā Devi apprehending day-break sends Śuk-Śārikā (male and female parrots) and other birds to start chirping to awaken Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Here chirping indicates sweet singing of the glories of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. There is competition between Śuk and Śārikā to sing the glories of Kṛṣṇa and Rādhā more than each other. When Śuk sings more qualities of Kṛṣṇa, devotees on behalf of Kṛṣṇa are satisfied, but when female parrot Śārikā sings glories of Rādhārāni more than Kṛṣṇa, the personal associates of

Rādhārāni become happy. In this way, competition of singing continues. By hearing this sweet competition of songs and also sweet songs of the gopīs, Rādhārāni is awakened and opens her eyes but Kṛṣṇa is not awakened. Kṛṣṇa remains with closed eyes. So long, gopīs had the responsibility to awaken Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, but when Rādhārāni is awakened, their responsibility to awaken Kṛṣṇa is over. Rādhārāni is worried and afraid seeing the light of the Sun increasing, but she cannot push Kṛṣṇa to wake-up for fear of offence. There is one female monkey of the name ‘Kakkhati’ to serve Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, by her own capacity and she wants permission of the gopīs to make a harsh loud sound to awake Kṛṣṇa. But gopīs are not giving permission considering by hearing her harsh voice, Kṛṣṇa will be disturbed. But Kṛṣṇa is gracious to all, He wants to give scope of service to all devotees without considering their qualities. Kṛṣṇa does not open His eyes and gopīs are compelled to allow female monkey to make a harsh sound. On hearing the harsh sound, Kṛṣṇa opens His eyes. Kṛṣṇa and Rādhā looking at each other with wistful eyes— both are afraid thinking it is high time to return to their respective houses. They quickly run to their respective houses and entering into their houses go to bed to sleep. By the influence of Yogamāyā, Nanda Mahārāja, Yaśodā Devi, mother-in-law of Rādhārāni ‘Jatilā’ and her husband ‘Āyan Ghoṣ’ cannot detect them.

Lila kirtan one ~

dekhiyā aruṇodoy, vṛndā-devi byasta hoy,
kuñje nānā raba korāilo
śuka-śārī padya śuni, uṭhe rādhā-nīlamanī,
sakhī-gaṇa dekhi’ hṛṣṭa hoilo (1)

kālocita sulalita, kakkhaṭīra rabe bhīta
rādhā-kṛṣṇa sa-tṛṣṇa haiyā
nija nija grhe gelā, nibhṛte śayana kailā
dunhe bhaji se līlā smariyā (2)

ei līlā smaro āṛ gāo kṛṣṇa-nāma,
kṛṣṇa-līlā prema-dhana pābe kṛṣṇa-dhāma (3)

Second Period of Devotional Practice (2nd Yāma Sādhana)

Morning Bhajan— Association of devotee-sādhus, taking shelter of pure devotee— bona fide Guru (Spiritual Guide), devotional practice as per direction of Guru and removal of ulterior desires

[There is no consideration of regulation in uttering Holy Name. Holy Name can be uttered anywhere and everywhere—auspicious or inauspicious time. Holy Name is All-Powerful. Amongst all forms of devotional practice, uttering of Harinām is the best.]

2nd verse of Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka

*nāmnām akāri bahudhā nija-sarva-śaktis
tatrārpiṭā niyamitaḥ smaraṇe na kālāḥ
etādṛṣi tava kṛpā bhagavan mamāpi
durdaivam idṛśam ihājani nānurāgaḥ*

O Supreme Lord! Your Holy Name bestows all kinds of eternal welfare to the conditioned souls. For that reason, your Principal Holy Names (Kṛṣṇa, Govinda, Gopīnāth etc.)— Original Transcendental Spiritual Names have no direct or indirect connection with the non-eternal material world. These Holy Names have descended in this world. Supreme Lord has bestowed all powers to His Names and no restriction is imposed to utter the Holy Names. No restriction of time, space— rules and regulations, for utterance and remembrance of the Holy Names. O Lord! You are so merciful to the conditioned souls i.e. out of compassion you have made easy for the conditioned souls to remember and chant Holy Names, but due to my tenfold offences and my greatest misfortune I have got no liking for Holy Name which has been made so easily obtainable.

*aneka lokera vāñchā aneka prakāra,
kṛpā te karila aneka nāmera pracāra,
khāite śuite yathā tathā nāma laya,
deśa-kāla-niyama nāhi sarvasiddhi haya,
sarvaśakti nāme dila kariyā vibhāga,
āmāra durdaiva nāme nāhi anurāga*

Many persons have got many desires. The significance of these many desires is— many desires for service of Kṛṣṇa with different delightful relations— Śānta, Dāśya, Sākhyā, Vātsalya, Madhur. To fulfil the desires of the devotees to serve Kṛṣṇa with different delightful relations, Kṛṣṇa appears in this world in different Names. Holy Name can be uttered anywhere and everywhere, even during eating and lying down. There is no consideration of space, time and regulation. Utterance of Holy Names can bestow all kinds of attainments. All powers have been given to the Names appearing in this world according to different delightful devotional relations, but it is my greatest misfortune, that I have got no devoted inclination for this.

Śikṣāṣṭaka song two ~

tuñhu doyā-sāgara tārayite prāṇī
nāma aneka tuwā śikhāoli āni’ (1)

sakala śakati dei’ nāme tohārā
grahaṇe rākholi nāhi kālā-vicārā (2)

śrī-nāma-cintāmaṇi tohāri samānā
viśve bilāoli karuṇā-nidānā (3)

tuwā doyā aichana parama-udārā
atiśoya manda nātha! bhāga hāmārā (4)

nāhi janamalo nāme anurāga mora
bhakativinoda-citta duḥkhe vibhora (5)

Bhaktivinode Thākura has given reference from Haribhaktivilāsa and significance of that reference in his own Bengali writing in the form of devotional hymn to attain one-pointed devotion:-

*ekānta bhakatera mātra kīrtan-smaraṇa,
anya parve ruchi nāhi haya pravartana,
bhāvera sahita haya śrī kṛṣṇa-sevana,
svārasikī-bhāva krame haya uddīpana,*

*ekānta bhakatera kriyā mudrā rāgodita,
tathāpi sei saba nāhi vidhi vipirīta,
sarva tyāga karile o chārā sukaṭhina,
pratiṣṭhāsātyāge yatna payibe praviṇa,
prabhate gabhīra rātre madhyāhne sandhyāya,
anartha chāriyā lao nāmera āśraya,
ei rūpe kīrtana smaraṇa jei kare,
kṛṣṇa-kṛpā haya śigrha, anāyāse tare,
śraddhā kari' sādhu sange kṛṣṇa-nāma laye,
anartha sakala jāye niṣṭhā upajaye,
prātaḥkāle nityalīlā kariḇe cintana,
cintite cintite bhāvera haibe sādhana*

A Pure devotee who has got one-pointed devotion to Lord has got liking only to perform devotion of chanting and remembering Śrī Kṛṣṇa. He cannot be persuaded to change his taste to any other form of devotion. They serve Kṛṣṇa with delightful relation of love. According to their delightful relation, there is inspiration of gradual development of love. Devoted devotee's all actions are inspired by pure love originating from delightful relation. Such devotee's actions may seem to be against regulated devotion, persuaded by reverence, but the purpose of service to satisfy the object of worship is preserved in Rāga-bhakti. Hence, devotion of a pure devotee with delightful relation, which gives satisfaction to the object of worship, cannot be against the purpose of devotion. We can renounce everything but it is very difficult to give up the desire for name and fame. The wise votary who wants development of pure devotion must be very careful in regard to this. The votary who wants Raga-Bhakti should do Harinām giving up all ulterior desires in the morning, midnight, mid-day and in the evening, i.e.— always. With this devoutness when the said votary performs 'Kīrtan' and 'Smaraṇ', he will get grace of Kṛṣṇa soon and will be able to get the highest objective by which he will be actually emancipated from all attachments. The aspirant should utter the Name of Kṛṣṇa in the company of bona fide sādhus with firm faith, then all ulterior desires will be removed and he will get permanent fixation of the mind to the object of worship. We are to think about the second period of eternal pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa in the morning. By thinking, only by thinking, we can get development of pure divine love.

Morning pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa

*rādhām snāta-vibhūṣitām vrajapayāhūtām sahībhiḥ prage
tad-gehe vihitānna-pāka-racanām kṛṣṇāvaśeṣanām
kṛṣṇam buddham avāpta-dhenu-sadanam nirvyūḍha-go-dohanam
susnātam kṛta-bhojanam saha-caraistaś cātha tāś cāśraye*
Govindalīlāmṛta 2.1

I take shelter at the Lotus Feet of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī who, after taking bath in the morning at Jāvaṭ, decorating herself with beautiful dress and various ornaments liked by Śrī Kṛṣṇa, goes to the house of Nanda Mahārāja (Nandagrām) along with other confidantes (sahkis), being called by Yaśodā Devi, to engage herself for cooking different varieties of food for Kṛṣṇa. After Kṛṣṇa's taking of that food, she honours the remnants with great satisfaction. Here it is to be carefully noted, why Yaśodā Devi without cooking food herself, has called Rādhārāṇī to cook the food. Because she has come to learn, if my beloved son takes the food prepared by Rādhārāṇī, His span of life will be increased as Rādhārāṇī has got such boon from Durvāsā Ṛṣī. Nanda Mahārāja and Yaśodā Devi can never think 'Kṛṣṇa' to be Supreme Lord, Lord of all lords, but always think Him as their beloved little child. This is the speciality of pure love of Nanda-Yaśodā in Braja Dhām. Pastimes of Kṛṣṇa in the morning of being awakened from the sleep is also to satisfy His parents Nanda Mahārāja and Yaśodā Devi. Nanda Mahārāja and Yaśodā Devi do not know what happened in the night. They are happy seeing their son rising from the bed. Kṛṣṇa is always careful to give satisfaction to the cows and cowherd boys— other personal associates. As per His regular duty given by the parents to Him, He goes to the cowshed to milk the cows to give them satisfaction by touching them and after returning from cowshed, calls the cowherd boys who are His bosom friends and always anxious of getting His company to take bath. After taking bath, Kṛṣṇa sits down with other cowherd boys to eat the food cooked by Rādhārāṇī and distributed by Yaśodā Devi. During these pastimes union of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa also occurs. I also take the shelter of the Lotus Feet of such 'Kṛṣṇa'. The aspirants for getting such Braja Prema should think about these pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa while doing Harinām in the company of śuddha bhaktas— pure devotees in the morning. By thinking about the pastimes and doing

saṅkīrtan, the aspirants can get inspiration of Transcendental Divine Love immediately.

Lila kirtan two ~

rādhā snāta vibhūṣita, śrī-yaśodā-samāhūta,
sakhī-saṅge tad-grhe gamana
tathā pāka-viracana, śrī-kṛṣṇāvaśeṣāṣana
madhye madhye duṅhāra milana (1)

kṛṣṇa nidrā porihori', goṣṭhe go-dohana kori',
snānāṣana sahacara-saṅge
ei līlā cintā koro, nāma-preme goro-goro,
prāte bhakta-jana saṅge raṅge (2)

ei līlā cinto ār koro saṅkīrtana
acire pāibe tumi bhāva-uddīpana (3)

Third Period of Devotional Practice (3rd Yāma Sādhana)

Niṣṭhā-bhajana— Fixation of mind to the Object of worship (Śrī Kṛṣṇa)

[The person entitled to do Nāma Saṅkīrtan— the procedure of doing Harinām, is ascertained in the third verse of Śikṣāṣṭaka.]

3rd Verse of Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka

*tṛṇād api sunīcena taror iva sahiṣṇunā
amāninā mānadena kīrtanīyaḥ sadā hariḥ*

The aspirant who is more humbler than a blade of grass, more forbearing than tree and who is completely devoid of desire for getting respect from others but giving due respect to all is eligible for doing Hari-kīrtan always.

*ye-rūpe la-ile nāma prema upajaya
tāhāra lakṣaṇa śloka śuna, svarūpa-rāma-rāya
uttama hañā āpanāke māne tṛṇādhama
dui-prakāre sahiṣṇutā kare vṛkṣa-sama*

*vrkṣa yena kāṭileha kichu nā bolaya
śukāñā mailea kāre pānī nā māgaya
yei ye māgaye, tāre deya āpana-dhana
gharma-vṛṣṭi sahe, ānera karaye rakṣaṇa
uttama hañā vaiṣṇava habe nirabhimāna
jīve sammāna dibe jāni' 'kṛṣṇa'-adhiṣṭhāna*

Śrī Caitanya Caritāmṛta, Antya, 20/20,22-25

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu addressing Svarūpa Dāmodara and Rāi Rāmānanda has said, "Hear about the scriptural verse expressing the characteristics of how to do Harinām by which pure devotional love can be manifested. In spite of being endowed with good qualities, one who considers himself more abominable than a blade of grass, who has got the quality of forbearance in two ways— like the tree, in spite of being loped, does not say anything but tolerates and has no aptitude to give trouble to anybody for it's own sake for getting water even if it is dried up, but is always ready for giving it's own wealth, i.e. for sacrificing it's own interest to fulfill the desire of anybody who seeks it's help. Tree is so tolerant and benevolent, even if anybody does harm to it by loping it's branch and comes to take it's shelter from heat and rains it does not deprive him, but gives it's advantage to the person who prays for it. True Vaishnavas are endowed with such good qualities. They are without vanity and they see their object of worship Sri Krishna in all living beings and give respect to all.

[It should be noted here that above cannot be understood by worldly people. Evidence by Śrīla Rupa Goswami :

*atah sri krishna namadi na bhaved grahyam indriyaih
sevonmukhe hi jihvadau svayam eva sphuraty adah*
(Bhakti-rasamrita- sindhu 1.2.234)

“The transcendental name, form, qualities and pastimes of Sri Krishna cannot be comprehended through the materially contaminated senses. Only when one becomes spiritually saturated by transcendental service to the Lord, the transcendental name, form, qualities and pastimes of the Lord are revealed to him.”

The Transcendental Name and Form descends to the tongue etc. of surrendered devotee inclined to serve Sree Krishna. It is never possible to have contact with the Transcendental Reality — Supreme Lord, Who is All-Existence, All-Knowledge and All-Bliss, by the process of ascension. Only through the process of descension, Transcendental Name, Form, Attributes and Pastimes of Supreme Lord can be realized. In this material world, material sound and the thing indicated by material sound are different but in Transcendental Spiritual Realm, Transcendental Name of Supreme Lord and Transcendental Entity of Supreme Lord are non-different. Supreme Lord is the cause of all causes, and therefore, naturally, is Self-effulgent. His Transcendental Name is also Self-effulgent.]

Śikṣāṣṭaka song three ~

śrī-kṛṣṇa-kīrtane jadi mānasa tohāra
parama jatane tāñhi labho adhikāra (1)

tṛṇādḥika hīna dīna, akiñcana chāra
āpane mānobi sadā chāri' ahañkāra (2)

vṛkṣa-sama kṣamā-guṇa korobi sādhanā
pratihimsā tyaji' anye korobi pālana (3)

jīvana-nirvāhe āne udvega nā dibe
para-upakāre nija-sukha pāsaribe (4)

hoile-o sarva-guṇe guṇī mahāśoy
pratiṣṭhāśā chāri koro amānī ḥṛdoy (5)

kṛṣṇa-adhiṣṭhāna sarva-jive jāni' sadā
korobi sammāna sabe ādare sarvadā (6)

dainya, doyā, anye māna, pratiṣṭhā-varjana
cāri guṇe guṇī hoi' koroḥo kīrtana (7)

bhakativinoda kāñdi', bole prabhu-pāy
heno adhikāra kobe dibe he āmāy (8)

Forenoon Pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa

The blessed votary should think about it while doing Harinām—

*pūrvāhṇe dhenu-mitrair vipinam anusṛtaṁ goṣṭha-lokānuyātaṁ
kṛṣṇaṁ rādhāpti-lolaṁ tad abhisṛti-kṛte prāpta-tat-kuṇḍa-tīraṁ
rādhāṁ cālōkya kṛṣṇaṁ kṛta-grha-gamanāṁ āryayārkārcanāyai
diṣṭāṁ kṛṣṇa-pravṛtyai prahita-nija-sakhī-vartma-netrāṁ smarāmi*
Govindalīlāmṛta 5.1

When Kṛṣṇa with calves (or cows) and cowherd boys goes to forest, Nanda Mahārāja, Yaśodā Devi and other milkmen and milkwomen of Braja Dhām are following Kṛṣṇa as long as they can see Him. They are going, but when they cannot see Him, they return disappointed. Kṛṣṇa delights the calves and cowherd boys, but attracted by pure devotion of Rādhārāṇi, goes to Rādhā-kuṇḍa to meet Rādhārāṇi, who has been anxiously waiting at Rādhā-kuṇḍa to see Kṛṣṇa and to get His company. Kṛṣṇa, of course, consoled the calves or cows and cowherd boys before going to Rādhā-kuṇḍa at noon. I remember the Lotus Feet of such Kṛṣṇa in the forenoon pastimes.

Rādhārāṇi is always anxious to meet Śrī Kṛṣṇa and she took advice of Kṛṣṇa, how she could come and meet Him because mother-in-law 'Jaṭilā' would not allow her to come. Kṛṣṇa has advised Rādhārāṇi, "You should not say you are coming to see me, then you will not get her permission. Household persons are more inclined to worship demigods to get worldly benefits. You should pray to your mother-in-law that you want to worship Sun-God. Then your mother-in-law will immediately approve it and allow you to worship Sun-God for getting mundane benefits. Under the pretext of worshipping Sun-God, you will be able to meet me". Rādhārāṇi with great perturbation of heart has sent one confidante (sakhi) to search for Kṛṣṇa and how she can go to the particular place where Kṛṣṇa is residing and she can meet Kṛṣṇa. Rādhārāṇi is very anxiously awaiting for the return of the confidante to get the information where to go to see Kṛṣṇa. I remember the Lotus Feet of such Rādhārāṇi in the forenoon pastimes.

Lila kīrtan three ~

dhenu-sahacara-saṅge, kṛṣṇa vane jāy raṅge,
goṣṭha-jana anuvrata hari
rādhā-saṅga lobhe punaḥ, rādhā-kuṇḍa-taṭa-vana,
jāy dhenu saṅgi parihari (1)

kṛṣṇera iṅgita pāiyā, rādhā nija grhe jāiyā
jaṭilājñā loy sūryārcane
gupte kṛṣṇa-patha lakhi', kata-kṣane āise sakhi
vyākulitā rādhā smari mane (2)

Fourth Period of Devotional Practice (4th Yāma Sādhana)

Midday pastimes— Bhajan with taste

[The true worshipper of Harinām has got no other desire except causeless devotion to Śrī Kṛṣṇa]

4th Verse of Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka

*na dhanam na janam na sundarīm
kavitām vā jagad-īśa kāmaye
mama janmani janmanīśvare
bhavatād bhaktir ahaituki tvayi*

O Supreme Lord! I have got no desire for wealth, manpower or erudition (desire for deceitful Trivarga— worldly piety, money and lust or even to merge myself with the Impersonal Formless Brahma, i.e. 'Mukti'— salvation, which is more deceitful). My only prayer is to get causeless one-pointed devotion to You.

*griha dravya śiṣya paśu dhānya ādi dhana
stri putra dāsa dāsi kuṭumbādi jana
kāvyā alankāra ādi sundari kavita
pārthiva viṣaya madhye e saba vārtā
ei saba pāibāra āśā nāhi kari
śuddha-bhakti deha more kṛṣṇa kṛpā kari
premera svabhāva jānhā premera sambandha
sei māne kṛṣṇa mora nāhi bhakti gandha*

Srila Bhaktivinode Thākura has elaborated each desire specifically in detail. Desire for wealth— desire for a good house, property or non-eternal things of the world, desire for making disciples with worldly motive, desire for domestic animals, desire for paddy— crops etc. Desire for manpower— desire for wife, children, servants, maid servants and other relatives. Desire for erudition— Kāvya—book of verse relating to poetic drama, rhetoric art, poetical talent. All these relate to worldly matters, as such I do not want assurance to get these. O Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa! Kindly bestow me pure devotion. Here it is necessary to understand the significance of pure love and its relation. When there will be actual pure love, the votary will have the feeling of humbleness within his heart and he will admit that he has got not even a tinge of devotion. For evidence, reference of Mahāprabhu's own saying in Śrī Caitanya Caritāmṛta, Madhya 2/45,—

*na prema-gandho 'sti darāpi me harau,
krandāmi saubhāgya-bharam prakāśitam
vaṁśi-bilāsy-ānana-lokanam binā,
bibhasmi yat praṇa-pataṅgakān vrithā*

Mahāprabhu speaks to Svarūpa Dāmodara and Rāi Rāmānanda, “I have got not even an iota of love for Śrī Kṛṣṇa.” Then if it is questioned, why Mahāprabhu is crying so much for Kṛṣṇa? Mahāprabhu's reply, “I am crying only to show others my reputation that I am graced by Kṛṣṇa to get such prema. Ample proof of my devoidness of actual love for Kṛṣṇa is that without seeing the sweet face of Kṛṣṇa with flute, I am still living.”

Śikṣaṣṭaka song four ~

**prabhu tava pada-yuge mora nivedana
nāhi māgi deha-sukha vidyā dhana jana(1)**

**nāhi māgi svarga āra mokṣa nāhi māgi
nā kori prārthanā kona vibhūtira lāgi' (2)**

**nija-karma-guṇa-doṣe je je janma pāi
janme janme jena tava nāma-guṇa gāi (3)**

ei mātṛa āśā mama tomāra caraṇe
ahaitukī bhakti hṛde jāge anukṣane (4)

viṣaye je prīti ebe āchaye āmāra
sei mata prīti hauk caraṇe tomāra (5)

vipade sampade tāhā thākuk sama-bhāve
dine dine vṛddhi hauk nāmera prabhāve (6)

paśu-pakṣi ho'ye thāki svarge vā niroye
tava bhakti rohu bhaktivinoda-hṛdoye (7)

Indication of Midday Pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa

*madhyāhne 'nyonya saṁgodita vividha-vikārādi-bhūṣāpramugdhou
vāmyotkaṇṭhātīloulau smaramakha lalitādy āli-narmāptaśātau
dolāraṇyāmbu-vamśi-hṛti-rati-madhupānārka-pūjādi-līlau
rādhā-kṛṣṇau satṛṣṇau parijana-ghaṭayā sevyamānau smarāmi
Govindalīlāmṛta 8.1*

[According to Gaudiya Vaiṣṇava school of thought, midday pastime of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa at Rādhā-kuṇḍa is the highest. Devotees of Nimbārka sampradāya also worship Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa but they think Rāsa-līlā with gopīs at Vṛndāvana under Vamsivata is the highest. The speciality of the transcendental love of the gopīs is, they do not want direct contact with Kṛṣṇa, but they want to make union of Sṛimati Rādhā with Kṛṣṇa because Rādhā's prema is more than the prema of hundred crores of gopīs. By getting contact with Rādhārāni, Kṛṣṇa's transcendental sweetness is increased so much, that by seeing that gopīs become more happy than by their direct contact with Kṛṣṇa.]

All the ecstatic feelings of highest order including Aṣṭasāttvik-vikār—eight principal ecstatic feelings, thirty three kinds of other subordinate ecstatic feelings—sanchāri— all kinds of highest sweet inciting transcendental ecstatic feelings are manifested in Rādhā-kuṇḍa. In no other pastimes such excellent charmness of sweet ecstatic feelings can be found. Some extraordinary ecstatic feelings have been mentioned here.

‘Vāmya’— crookedness of prema, external expression of rudeness, harshness is there but inside actually just the reverse— which is inexplicable. ‘Utkañṭhā’— supreme eagerness to get contact with the object of love, which removes all kinds of restlessness but in this ecstatic feeling they have become externally too much restless. By hearing jokes of the gopīs Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa get happiness. In addition to these, there are innumerable pastimes, viz. swinging ceremony of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, pleasant strolling in the forest, water sports in ponds and rivers, stealing of flute and other transcendental amorous pastimes, drinking of sweet honey, worship of Sun-God etc. Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa while engrossed in these transcendental pastimes are served by gopīs. I remember such pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

Lila kirtan four ~

rādhā-kunḍe sumilana vikārādi vibhūṣaṇa
vāmyotkañṭhā mugdha-bhāva-līlā
sambhoga narmādi-rīti dolā-khelā vaṁśī-hṛti
madhu-pāna sūrya-pūjā khelā (1)

jala-khelā vanyāśana chala-supti vanyāṭana
bahu līlānande dui jane
parijana suveṣṭita rādhā kṛṣṇa susevita
madhyāhna-kālete smari mane (2)

Fifth Period of Devotional Practice (5th Yāma Sādhana)

Afternoon Bhajan— Attachment to Kṛṣṇa

5th Verse of Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka

ayi nanda-tanuja kiṅkaram
patitaṁ mām viṣame bhavāmbudhau
kṛpayā tava pāda-paṅkaja-
sthita-dhūli-saḍṛśaṁ vicintaya

O Nandanandan, in spite of my being your eternal servant, due to predicament of my own deeds, I am drowned in the terrible ocean of

births and deaths. Out of compassion kindly think me as dust particle of your Lotus Feet.

Bhaktivinode Thākura's Bengali hymn (invoking Kṛṣṇa's grace)

I am your eternal servant. By forgetting you I am entangled by your illusory energy and have been drowned in the ocean of births and deaths. Kindly please consider me as dust particle of your Lotus Feet. I am your eternal servant, engage me in your service.

Śikṣāṣṭaka song five ~

anādi karama-phale porī' bhavārnava-jale
taribāre nā dekhi upāy
e viṣaya-halāhale divā-niśi hiyā jvale
man kabhu sukha nāhi pāy (1)

āśā-pāśa śata śata kleśa deya avirata
pravṛtti ūrmira tāhe khelā
kāma-krodha-ādi choy bāṭapāḍe deya bhoy
avasān hoilo āśi' belā (2)

jñāna-karma-ṭhog dui, more pratāriyā loi'
avaśeṣe phele sindhu-jale
e-heno samaye bandhu, tumi kṛṣṇa kṛpā-sindhu
kṛpā kori' tolo more bole (3)

patita-kiṅkore dhorī', pāda-padma-dhuli kori'
deho bhaktivinode āśroy
āmi tava nitya-dāsa, bhuliyā māyāra pāś
baddha hoye āchi doyā-moy (4)

Indication of afternoon eternal pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa

śrī rādhām prāpta-gehām nija-ramaṇa-kṛte klpta nānopahārām
susnātām ramya-veśām priya-mukha-kamalāloka-pūrṇa-pramodām
śrī kṛṣṇam cāparāhṇe vrajam anucalitām dhenu-vṛindair vayasyai

I remember such Sṛimati Rādhārāni who has returned from Rādhā-kuṇḍa to Jāvaṭ in the afternoon and is engaged for preparing various good dishes of different names— ‘Amṛtkeli’, ‘Karpurkeli’ etc. for presentation to beloved Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Rādhārāni also takes bath nicely, dresses herself with good garments, to satisfy Śrī Kṛṣṇa and very anxiously waits on the path for the return of Kṛṣṇa from pasture and is extremely delighted to see the Lotus Face of Śrī Kṛṣṇa [It is to be very carefully noted here that whatever Rādhārāni is doing is not to satisfy her or to satisfy other persons, her ultimate target is to satisfy Kṛṣṇa and Kṛṣṇa alone. Means is justified by the end.]

Kṛṣṇa’s pastimes in the afternoon— Kṛṣṇa with cows or calves and cowherd boys, returns from the grazing ground of the cows— Braja Dhām and on seeing Rādhārāni on the way, is extremely delighted. [Kṛṣṇa is attracted by the pure love of Rādhārāni.] After returning to the house, Kṛṣṇa meets His father Nanda Mahārāja and other father-like milkmen as well as mother Yaśodā and other mother-like milkwomen. All gopa-gopīs are extremely delighted to get Kṛṣṇa back and to see Him. Yaśodā Devi out of affection embraces and cleanses Kṛṣṇa. I remember such Kṛṣṇa in the afternoon.

Lila kirtan five ~

śrī rādhikā gr̥he gelā, kṛṣṇa lāgi viracilā,
nānā-vidha khādyā upahāra
snāta ramya veśa dhori’, priya-mukheṣṇa kori’,
purnānanda pāilo apāra (1)

śrī-kṛṣṇāparāhṇa-kāle, dhenu mitra loiyā cole,
pathe rādhā-mukha nirakhiyā
nandādi milana kori, yaśodā mārjita hari,
smara man ānandita hoiyā (2)

Sixth Period of Devotional Practice (6th Yāma Sādhana)

Evening Bhajan— Bhāva (Prior stage of prema)

[External symptoms of realized state]

6th Verse of Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka

*nayanam galad-aśru-dhārayā
vadanam gadgada-ruddhayā girā
pulakair nīcitam vapuḥ kadā
tava nāma-graḥaṇe bhaviṣyati*

O Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa! When by uttering your Holy Name, my eyes will be adorned with sacred glamour of the rolling down of tears, while uttering, my voice will be choked (will not be able to utter the complete Holy Name, words will be incoherent— not understandable to ordinary persons), the whole body will be horripilated (saturated with thrilling sensation).

Srila Bhaktivinode Thākura in his own writing Bengali hymn, has clearly narrated eight principal ecstatic feelings— rolling down of tears from the eyes, choking of the voice (incomplete utterance of the Holy Name), horripilation, sweating, shivering, motionlessness, losing consciousness with paleness of body.

*prema dhana binā vyārtha daridra jivana
dāsa kari vetana more deha premadhana*

Without the wealth of ‘Prema’— pure devotional love, life is futile and poor. Kindly accept me as your servant and pay me salary— the wealth of divine love.

Śikṣāṣṭaka song six ~

*aparādha-phale mama, citta bhela vajra-sama
tuwā nāme nā lobhe vikāra
hatāśa hoiye hari, tava nāma ucca kori’
boro duḥkhe ḍāki bāra bāra (1)*

dīna doyāmoy karuṇā-nidāna
bhāva-bindu dei' rākhoho parāṇa (2)

kobe taba nāma-uccaraṇe mora
nayane jharabo dara dara lora (3)

gada-gada svara kaṇṭhe upajabo
mukhe bolo ādha ādha bāhirābo (4)

pulake bharabo śarīra hāmāra
sveda-kampa-stambha hobe bāra bāra (5)

vivarṇa-śarīre hārāobuṇ jñāna
nāma-samāśraye dharobuṇ parāṇa (6)

milabo hāmāra kiye aiche dina
roye bhaktivinoda mati-hīna (7)

Hint of evening pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa

*sāyam rādhām sva-sakhyā nija-ramaṇa-kṛte preṣitāneka-bhojyām
sakhyānīteśa-śeṣāśana mudita hṛdam tām ca tam ca vrajendum
susnātaṁ ramya-veśaṁ grīham anu-jananī lālitaṁ prāpta-goṣṭhaṁ
nirvyūḍho 'srālidohaṁ svagrham anu punar bhuktavantaṁ smarāmi
Govindalīlāmṛta 20.1*

Rādhārāṇi sends the good preparations of food cooked by her in the afternoon for Kṛṣṇa through one confidante (sakhi) to Nandagrām in the evening. Sakhi brings those good preparations of food from Jāvaṭ to Nandagrām and offers to Yaśodā Devi. Yaśodā Devi feeds her child Kṛṣṇa with great affection and satisfaction. After Kṛṣṇa's taking food, the remnant— prasād, has been brought back by sakhi from Nandagrām to Jāvaṭ and is offered to Rādhārāṇi. Rādhārāṇi takes the remnant— Kṛṣṇa's prasād, with great satisfaction. I remember such sweet pastimes of Rādhārāṇi.

Kṛṣṇa's pastimes— Yaśodā Devi bathes the child nicely and dresses the child with good garments and adores the child on her lap inside the house, shows affection to the child for taking so much trouble for tending the cows in the pasture moving through the forest with soft Feet over stone chips and thorns. After pacifying the child, Yaśodā Devi persuades the child to go to the cowshed to milk the cows, otherwise how it will be possible to maintain the family. On hearing the desire of mother, Kṛṣṇa immediately goes to cowshed with other cowherd boys to milk the cows. Kṛṣṇa gives satisfaction to the cows and also to other gopīs. Cows are extremely happy to see Kṛṣṇa and to get nectar of the sweet touch of Kṛṣṇa. Out of spontaneous love the cows are giving milk automatically. Kṛṣṇa returns to the house and gladly takes the food prepared by Rādhārāni sent through sakhi. I remember such sweet pastimes of Kṛṣṇa in the evening with great adoration.

Lila kirtan six ~

śrī-rādhikā sāyam-kāle, kṛṣṇa lāgi' pāṭhāile
 sakhī-haste vividha miṣṭānna
 kṛṣṇa-bhukta-śeṣa āni', sakhī dilo sukha māni'
 pāñā rādhā hoilo prasanna (1)

snāta ramya-veśa dhorī', yaśodā lālita hari
 sakhā-saha go-dohana kore
 nānā-vidha pakva anna, pāñā hoilo parasanna
 smari āmi parama ādare (2)

Seventh Period of Devotional Practice (7th Yāma Sādhana)

Devotional spiritual practice at Dusk

'Prema vipralambha'— Divine love in separation

[Internal symptoms of realized state or highest objective— 'Premabhakti']

7th Verse of Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka

yugāyitaṁ nimeṣeṇa cakṣuṣā prāvṛṣāyitaṁ
 śūnyaīyitaṁ jagat sarvaṁ govinda-virahaṇa me

Symptoms of separation grief— even a moment’s separation from Govinda will be considered as an epoch, tears will roll down from the eyes like rainfall, realization of the voidness of the whole world.

Srila Bhaktivinode Thākura’s writing:

Due to separation grief, these symptoms will be manifested— every day is spent with anxiety, one moment of separation is equal to an epoch, tears are rolling down from the eyes like the clouds of rainy season, voidness of three worlds, due to extreme separation grief from Govinda, burning sensation like inextinguishable fire made with husk yet life is not collapsing.

Śikṣāṣṭaka song seven ~

gāite gāite nām ki daśā hoilo
kṛṣṇa-nitya-dāsa mui hṛdaye sphurilo (1)
jānilāma māyā-pāśe e jaḍa-jagate
govinda-virahe duḥkha pāi nānā-mate (2)

ār je saṁsāra mora nāhi lāge bhālo
kānhā jāi’ kṛṣṇa heri e cintā viśāla (3)

kāndite kāndite mora āṅkhi bariṣoy
barṣā-dhārā heno cakṣe hoilo udoy (4)

nimeṣa hoilo mora śata-yuga-sama
govinda-viraha āra sahite akṣama (5)

śūnya dharā-tala cau-dike dekhiye
parāṇa udāsa hoy
ki kori ki kori sthira nāhi hoy
jīvana nāhiko roy (6)

braja-bāsī-gaṇa, mora prāṇa rākha
dekhāo śrī-rādhā-nāthe

bhakativinoda, minati māniyā
laohe tāhāre sāthe (7)

śrī-kṛṣṇa-viraha āṛ sahite nā pāri
parāṇa chārite āṛ dīna dui cāri (8)

[Daśakuśī]

gāite govinda-nām, upajilo bhāva-grām
dekhilām jamunāra kūle
vṛṣabhānu-sutā-saṅge śyāma-naṭa-bara raṅge
bāṅsarī bājāy nīpa-mūle (1)

dekhiyā yugala-dhana, asthira hoilo man
jñāna-hārā hoinu tokhon
koto kṣane nāhi jāni, jñāna-lābha hoilo māni
āra nāhi bhelo daraśan (2)

[Jhānphi—Lophā]

sakhi go kemote dhoribo parāṇ
nimeṣa hoilo jugera samāna (1)

śrāvaṇera dhārā, āṅkhi bariṣoy
śūnya bhelo dharā-tala
govinda-virahe, prāṇa nāhi rohe
kemanē bāncibo bolo (2)

bhakativinoda, asthira hoiyā
punaḥ nāmāśraya kori'
dāke rādhā-nātha, diyā daraśana
prāṇa rākho nahe mori (3)

Indication of pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa at dusk

*rādhām sālīgaṇāntām asitasitaniśā-yogyā-veśām pradoṣe
dutyā vṛndopadeśādabhisṛta-yamunā-tīra-kalpāga-kunjam*

*kṛṣṇaṁ gopaiḥ sabhāyām vihita-guṇi kalālōkanam snigdha mātṛā
yatnādānīya saṁśāyitam atha nibhṛtaṁ prāpta-kuñjaṁ smarāmi
Govindalīlāmṛta 21.1*

Srīmatī Rādhikā, as per advice of Vṛndā Devi, at dusk wearing garments of black and white colour, suitable to dark and bright fortnight respectively (with the desire to hide herself from the detection of others), in the company of sakhis (confidantes), with female messenger (gopī), goes to Sanket Kuñja (particular suggested grove) under wish-yielding tree, saturated by beautiful sacred surroundings at the bank of the Yamuna to meet beloved Kṛṣṇa at the appointed time and place.

On the other side, Kṛṣṇa's pastimes at dusk— Kṛṣṇa has satisfied all His personal associates except gopas (milkmen). The gopas are disheartened not to get scope to serve Kṛṣṇa, but as Śrī Kṛṣṇa is Omniscient, He knows the minds of the milkmen. When milkmen want to exhibit some interesting games and sports with skillfulness and Kṛṣṇa is invited to come to the special meeting place to see the sports, Kṛṣṇa immediately accepts the proposal and goes to the meeting place to see nice skillfulness of the gopas and the sports and wrestling activities. Kṛṣṇa is so much attracted by seeing the sports, He is requesting to demonstrate different sports, one after another. Affectionate mother Yaśodā Devi is very much worried on seeing the son not coming from the meeting and going to bed. Yaśodā Devi is repeatedly calling the son for going to bed to sleep, but the son is not coming. Such is the nature of restless children. Yaśodā Devi goes herself to Kṛṣṇa to pacify the child and to ask the wrestlers to stop showing wrestling and their skillfulness. She brings the child to bed and sings songs to make the child sleep. When Kṛṣṇa has sound sleep, Nanda Mahārāja and Yaśodā Devi are happy. They also go to bed for sleep but what happens— Kṛṣṇa being attracted by pure devotion of Rādhā, secretly leaves the bed and goes to Sanket Kuñja (the said particular grove) to meet Rādhārāni at dusk. I remember such Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Lila kirtan seven ~

rādhā vṛndā upadeśe, yamunapakula-deśe,
sāṅketika-kuñje abhisāre
sitāsītā niśā jogya, dhori' veśa kṛṣṇa-bhogya,

sakhī-saṅge sānanda antare (1)

gopa-sabhā mājhe hari, nānā-guṇa-kalā heri
māṭṭ-jatne korilo śayana
rādhā-saṅga soṇariyā nibhṛte bāhira hoiyā
prāpta-kuñja koriye smarāṇa

Eighth Period of Devotional Practice (8th Yāma Sādhana)

Bhajan at night. ‘Prema sambhog’ - Transcendental Divine love in direct contact

Great devoutness to complete realized state or to highest objective— ‘Prema-bhakti’

[Excessive subservience to Kṛṣṇa alone]

8th Verse of Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka

āśliṣya vā pāda-ratām pinaṣtu mām
adarśanan marma-hatām karotu vā
yathā tathā vā vidadhātu lampāto
mat-prāna-nāthas tu sa eva nāparaḥ

Jewel amongst all beloved gopīs Śrīmatī Rādhikā’s apophthegm— Śrī Kṛṣṇa can crush this maid servant, devoted to His Lotus Feet, by firmly embracing me or mortifying me anywhere and everywhere by His profligate behavior with any of His beloved gopīs, yet He is my dearest beloved and nobody else.

In this context, it will be relevant to go through one verse of Śrī Caitanya Caritāmṛta (Antya līlā 20/52), written by Śrīla Kṛṣṇadās Kavirāj Goswāmī:-

nā gaṇi āpana dukha, sabe vāñchi tāra sukha,
tāra sukha āmāro tātparya,
more yadi diyā dukha, tāra hailo mahāsukha,
sei dukha mora sukhavarjya

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, accepting the mode of worship and form of Rādhārāṇī, with extreme separation grief, has stated thus— Rādhārāṇī's apophthegm. Only Rādhārāṇī can speak like this— “I do not consider my own grief, I only want His contentment, my purpose is His satisfaction. If by giving suffering to me, He becomes very happy, that distress to me will be my highest contentment.” Nobody on earth can inflict suffering to any person who is well-established in such thought or at least sincerely endeavouring to attain such state of mind.

Śikṣāṣṭaka song eight ~

āmi kṛṣṇa-pada dāsī, teṇho rasa sukha-rāśi,
āliṅgiyā kore ātma-sātha
kibā nā dey darasana, nā jāne mora tanu mana,
tabu teṇho mora prāṇa-nātha

Śrī Caitanya Caritāmṛta (Antya
Līlā 20.48–52)

Indication of night pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa

tāv utkau labdha-saṅgau bahu-paricaraṇair vṛndayārādhyamānau
preṣṭhālībhir lasantau vipina-viharaṇair gāna-rāsādilāsyaiḥ
nānā-līlā-nitāntau praṇaya-sahacarī vṛnda-saṁsevyamānau
rādhā-kṛṣṇau niśāyāṁ sukusuma-śayane prāpta-nidrau smarāmi
Govindalīlāmṛta 22.1

Only dearest confidantes are entitled to enter into the night pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Sakhis always try for the union of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Actually, Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa are very much eager for mutual union at night. When Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa's union is manifested, Vṛndā Devi with dearest sakhis worship Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa in various ways. After that Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa with those sakhis move in the forest, sing songs, do Rāsa-līlā with dancing etc. When Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, by doing so much pastimes become extremely fatigued, most beloved sakhis serve them nicely and at the end, make nice bed with

flowers where Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa make the pastimes of sleep. I remember such sweet pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

[Our Revered Guruvargas used to caution us by saying— only eligible votaries can remember the pastimes of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa of mid-day at Rādhā-kuṇḍa, dusk pastimes and night pastimes of Rāsa-līlā.]

Lila kirtan eight ~

vṛndā-paricarya pāiyā, preṣṭhāli-gaṇere loiyā
rādhā kṛṣṇa rāsādika-līlā
gīta-lāsyā koilo kata, sevā koilo sakhī joto,
kusuma-śajyāy dunhe śuilā (1)

niṣā-bhāge nidrā gelo, sabe ānandita hoilo,
sakhī-gaṇa parānande bhāse
e sukha-śayana smari', bhaja mana rādhā-hari
sei līlā praveśera āśe (2)

Girirāja-Govardhana

Appearance of Govardhana and appellation of “Girirāja”

The appearance of Śrī Govardhana in this world and how He acquired the appellation of “Girirāja” is described in the *Garga-saṁhitā* (*Vṛndāvana-khaṇḍa*, chapter 2) of Śrī Gargācārya in the conversation between Nanda Mahārāja and his senior advisor, the *gopa* Sananda. Sananda spoke to Nanda Mahārāja giving reference to the conversation between Pāṇḍu and Bhīṣma.

Desiring to appear in this world to allay the earth’s burden of grave sins committed by the demoniac, Śrī Kṛṣṇa directed Rādhikā to appear in this world. However, Rādhārāṇī expressed Her unwillingness to go to a place where Vṛndāvana, Yamunā and Śrī Govardhana were not present. Śrī Kṛṣṇa then sent His own Transcendental Spiritual Realm of Vraja-dhāma, an area of 84 *krośa* or 252 kilometers (1 *krośa* is equal to 3 kilometers), to descend to India in this world. Vraja-dhāma is not a part of the material world consisting of earth, water, fire, air and sky. Govardhana appeared as the son of the mountain Droṇa in Śālmālī Island in western India. All the demigods were exceedingly delighted at the appearance of Govardhana and showered down flowers.

All the big mountains such as the Himālayas and Sumeru were happy to hear about Govardhana’s appearance. They came to pay their homage to Govardhana and to worship Him. In their prayers they said, “Since Govardhana is the holy place of pastimes of the Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa in the Transcendental Sweet Realm of Goloka, He is the King of all mountains and the crown of Goloka. He is like an umbrella for Parabrahman Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Vṛndāvana is within His lap.” Since then, Govardhana has been renowned as “Girirāja.”

Pulastya Muni is one of the seven mind-born sons of Brahmā known as the Mānasa-Putra. Once upon a time, Pulastya Muni was traveling on pilgrimage and came to Śālmālī Island. There, he was astonished and charmed to see the extraordinary beauty of Govardhana mountain adorned with a variety of fruit and flower trees, pleasant sitting places, springs, radishes, soft grass, etc. When Pulastya Muni approached

Droṇācala, he was worshipped by Droṇācala. Pulastya Muni said to Droṇa, “I live in Kāśī which has special significance due to the presence of the Ganges and Viśveśvara Mahādeva. Sinners go there to get salvation, but my desire is to perform penance there after installing Govardhana”. Although extremely worried due to his affection for the child, Droṇācala was fearful of being cursed by Pulastya Muni and directed the child to go to the holy land of Bhārata (India) with the Muni. Initially, Govardhana was 64 miles long, 40 miles wide and 16 miles high [The present length of Govardhana is approximately 7 miles]. The question arose as to how the Muni would carry the big mountain Govardhana. Pulastya Muni said that he could easily carry the mountain on the palm of his hand. Govardhana agreed to go with the Muni on the condition that if he put Him anywhere on the ground while going, Govardhana would remain there due to His great weight and would not move. Pulastya Muni accepted the condition and promised to carry the mountain to the destination without putting Him down on the land. The Muni then began to move slowly to his destination while carrying Govardhana on the palm of his right hand. But when the Muni reached Vraja-dhāma, Govardhana saw the Yamunā and Vṛndāvana and remembered the sweet pastimes of Kṛṣṇa. He wanted to remain there and therefore became very heavy. The Muni became very much distressed and, forgetting his promise, put the mountain down on the land. After finishing his daily evacuation, bath and *sandhyā-pūjā* (silent recitation of prayers), Pulastya Muni returned to the place and asked Govardhana to sit on the palm of his hand. Govardhana, however, expressed His reluctance at moving. Pulastya Muni tried his best to lift the mountain but was unable to move Him. He became enraged and cursed Govardhana that He would diminish in size everyday according to the measure of one sesame seed.

The present diminished Govardhana is about 7 miles long. As long as Govardhana exists, the current black age of Kali-yuga will not be able to show its paramount power. But after thousands of years when Govardhana and the Yamunā have disappeared, Kali will be vehemently strong and all living beings will be oppressed and tortured to the extreme. The plight of human beings will then be precarious.

Govardhana-Dharan-Lilā (The lifting of Govardhana)

The Original Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself has revealed the ontological aspects and glories of Śrī Govardhana. It has been especially narrated in the most ancient history and civilization of India mentioned in the *R̥g Veda* that Indra, the presiding deity of the clouds, was worshipped on the Earth so that crops could be grown and reanimated by rainfall. We hear from the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* that according to human tradition and custom, annual worship of Indra was introduced in Vraja-dhāma so that there could be cultivation of land and protection of the cows. That was the only means of livelihood for the residents of Vraja-dhāma.

Śrī Kṛṣṇa saw that His father Nanda Mahārāja and other milkmen had collected many articles for the Indrayāg (oblation ceremony for the worship of Indra). Śrī Kṛṣṇa asked His father about the utility of performing such a function. Nanda Mahārāja said that if Indra, the presiding deity of the clouds was propitiated, there would be rainfall at the appropriate time. Thereby, paddy crops and grasses would be grown and that would be helpful for their livelihood and for the sustenance of the cows. Nanda Mahārāja again said, “If we neglect to perform our hereditary custom and duty, we will never get eternal welfare.” After hearing this from His father and other milkmen, in order to infuriate Indra, Śrī Kṛṣṇa made the Vrajavāsīs (residents of Vraja) understand the futility of the worship of Indra and convinced them of the efficacy of worshipping Govardhana: “Indra is a demigod without any hold over the fruits of actions. He cannot award bad fruit for a good action and good fruit for a bad action. Birth and death, happiness and affliction are due to the actions of the individual souls. Even worldly actions are the cause of enmity, friendship and indifference. Indra cannot undo the fruits of actions. Although cultivation, trade, protection of cows and money-lending are the livelihood of the *vaiśyas* (trader class of society), the Vrajavāsīs have only accepted protection of the cows as their principal means of livelihood. The residents of Vraja-dhāma live in the forests and mountains; therefore, cities, crowded human habitation and houses are not good for them. Therefore, they should start an oblation function for the worship of the cows, *brāhmaṇas* and mountains. Just as an unchaste lady who leaves her husband cannot get actual welfare by serving another person, similarly, the Vrajavāsīs cannot get actual welfare by serving

others, leaving the service of Girirāja Govardhana Who is their actual shelter.” Kṛṣṇa advised the milkmen of Vraja-dhāma to worship Girirāja Govardhana with all the articles collected for the Indrayāg. He also advised them to bring milk, yoghurt and other milk products to cook different preparations of food, viz. *Pāyasa* (preparation of milk, rice and sugar), *Mudgasūpa* (soup prepared from a kind of pigeon pea or pulse), *Piṣṭaka* and *Śaṣkuli* (sweet preparations made of rice, coconut, sugar and milk). Kṛṣṇa also directed them in the method of worship of Girirāja Govardhana: “It should be done by the ceremony of giving away cows and offering honorarium to the Vedic *brāhmaṇas* who will perform the oblation. *Brāhmaṇas* should be served with good preparations of food. After that, all others, including the *Caṇḍālas* (lowest caste), fallen persons and dogs should be served with appropriate offerings. Cows should be served with fresh grass. After Govardhana-pūjā, everyone should be adorned with ornaments, good dresses and anointments and should sit down to honour *prasāda*. Lastly, everyone should circumambulate Govardhana mountain with the cows, *brāhmaṇas* and the Fire-god.” Being enchanted and subdued by his deep parental affection, Nanda Mahārāja worshipped Girirāja Govardhana and all the *brāhmaṇas* properly with all the articles collected for the Indrayāg, as per the desire of his beloved son Śrī Kṛṣṇa. After that, while serving the cows with grass and straw, Nanda Mahārāja performed *parikramā* of Govardhana with all the *gopas* and *gopīs*, with the cows leading in front. All the *gopas* were adorned with beautiful ornaments and the *gopīs* sitting on the bullock-carts performed Govardhana *parikramā* while constantly singing the glories of Kṛṣṇa. To proclaim to the Vrajavāsīs that Girirāja Govardhana is non-different from Kṛṣṇa, Śrī Kṛṣṇa repeatedly and loudly uttered the words, “I am the mountain Govardhana,” and began to eat all the offerings given to Govardhana by extending thousand of hands. In another Form of Gopāla, the son of Nanda Mahārāja, Kṛṣṇa made obeisances to His own manifested Form of Govardhana. Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself introduced the practice of making prostrated obeisances to Govardhana as well as the circumambulation of Govardhana. Those who disregard Govardhana will be killed by Him in the form of serpents, etc.

Devarāja Indra, the emperor of the demigods, became furious at the Vrajavāsīs for stopping the Indrayāg. Indra oppressed the Vrajavāsīs by incessant heavy rainfall and a strong hailstorm-like cataclysm. All the

Vrajavāsīs were severely distressed and took shelter of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Śrī Kṛṣṇa then protected them by lifting Govardhana with His left hand. Later on, Devarāja Indra could understand his mistake and came to Kṛṣṇa with the Surabhi cow. He worshipped Kṛṣṇa and prayed to Him to forgive his offence. Girirāja Govardhana is identical with Kṛṣṇa and He is also the foremost servitor of Kṛṣṇa.

Śrīla Raghunātha Dāsa Gosvāmī prays to Girirāja Govardhana as follows:

*giri-nṛpa! haridāsa-śreṇi-varyeti-nāmā
mṛtam idam uditam śrī-rādhikā-vaktra-candrāt
vraja-nava-tilakatve kṛpta! vedaiḥ sphuṭam me
nija-nikaṭa-nivāsaṁ dehi govardhana tvam
(Śrī Govardhana-vāsa-prārthanā-daśakam, verse 8)*

“O Girirāja Govardhana, when your nectarean name was uttered from the lotus lips of Śrīmatī Rādhikā in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* (10.21.18), ‘*Hantāyam adrir abalā hari-dāsa-varyaḥ*,’ i.e. ‘O simple-hearted innocent *gopīs*, this mountain is foremost amongst all the servitors of Śrī Hari,’ then you were consecrated by all the Vedas as the new beautiful *tilaka* (sandalpaste mark) of Vraja-dhāma. I therefore pray to you to bestow me a dwelling place in your vicinity.”

The Supreme Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa stopped the worship of the demigods and introduced the worship of Govardhana, i.e. He introduced the service of Kṛṣṇa and Kṛṣṇa-*bhaktas*. One meaning of Govardhana is to enhance the sense-organs, so Govardhana-pūjā signifies the enhancement of the transcendental eternal spiritual sense-organs of Kṛṣṇa and Kṛṣṇa-*bhaktas*.

Since heaps of various items of cooked vegetable dishes were offered to Girirāja Govardhana in Govardhana-pūjā, this festival is also well-known as the Annakūṭa Festival. Śrī Govardhana-dhāri Gopāla was originally installed by Vajra (the grandson of Kṛṣṇa and son of Aniruddha). Due to Śrīla Mādhavendra Puripāda’s extraordinary pure devotion, Govardhana-dhāri Gopāla reappeared in Govardhana near the bank of Govinda-kuṇḍa. Mādhavendra Puripāda performed the Annakūṭa

Festival in Kali-yuga. This topic is narrated in detail in the *Caitanya-Caritāmṛta* (*Madhya-līlā*, chap. 4).

Śrī Dāmodarāṣṭakam

[Eight verses in adoration of Damodar : by Satyavrata Muni]

Verse 1 *namāmīśvaraṁ sac-cid-ānanda-rūpaṁ
lasat-kuṇḍalam gokule bhrājamānam
yaśodā-bhiyolūkhalād-dhāvamānam
parāmṛṣṭam atyantato drutya gopyā*

I lie prostrate in obeisance to the Lotus Feet of Supreme Lord ‘Damodar’ [Damodar— Krishna with corded belly], Who is Eternal-Omniscient-Ever Blissful, Whose earring is constantly swinging, Who is the glowing Beauty of Gokul, Who after stealing cream, out of fear of being apprehended by mother ‘Yasoda’, leaped from mortar and fled. Mother Yasoda seeing this followed the child very speedily and caught hold of His back.

Verse 2 *rudantaṁ muhur netra-yugmaṁ mrjantaṁ
karāmbhoja-yugmena sātaṅka-netraṁ
muhuḥ śvāsa-kampa-tri-rekhāṅka-kaṇṭha-
sthita-graivaṁ dāmodaraṁ bhakti-baddham*

Apprehending of being beaten by mother, child Krishna is crying and rubbing His two eyes again and again, Who is looking with panic, Whose neck is adorned with three charming thin lines created by repeated breathing and shivering and due to that Whose golden necklace is oscillating, Whose belly is fastened by mother Yasoda with rope, I sing the wonderful glories of Sri Damodar, Who is bound by pure devotion.

Verse 3 *itīḍṛk-sva-līlābhir ānanda-kuṇḍe
sva-ghoṣaṁ nimajjantaṁ ākhyāpayantaṁ
tadīyeṣita-jñeṣu bhaktair jitatvaṁ
punaḥ prematās taṁ śatāvṛtti vande*

I, again, in loving devotion sing in adoration of the Lotus Feet of Supreme Lord Damodar by hundreds of hymns because Sri Damodar has immersed all residents of Gokul in the holy charming pond of boyhood pastimes and He has proclaimed to the devotees performing reverential

worship that He can be only conquered by sweet devotion of Vraja-dham, emanating from intimate delightful relation.

Verse 4 *varam deva mokṣam na mokṣāvadhiṁ vā
na cānyam vṛṇe 'ham vareśād apīha
idaṁ te vapur nātha gopāla-bālam
sadā me manasy āvirāstām kim anyaiḥ*

O beloved God (devoted to childhood sweet pastimes)! Although you are competent to bestow all kinds of boons, I do not want from you chaturtha varga— fourth pursuit-salvation, even beyond salvation I do not want condensed bliss of Vaikuntha. I do not ask for any other boon. O Lord! I only want eternal appearance of your sweet childhood Form ‘Gopal’ in my heart and nothing else.

Verse 5 *idaṁ te mukhāmbhojam atyanta-nīlair-
vṛtaṁ kuntalaiḥ snigdha-raktaiś ca gopyā
muḥś cumbitaṁ bimba-raktādharām me
manasy āvirāstām alāṁ lakṣa-lābhaiḥ*

O Lord! May your beautiful lotus face enclosed by dark blue and pleasant crimson colour hairs and your red lips similar to ‘bimba’ fruit (red colour fruit) kissed repeatedly by mother Yasoda, appear in my heart. I do not need to get millions of other attainments.

Verse 6 *namo deva dāmodarānanta viṣṇo
prasīda prabho duḥkha-jālābdhi-magnam
kṛpā-dṛṣṭi-vṛṣṭyāti-dīnam batānu-
grhāṇeśa mām ajñam edhy akṣi-dṛśyaḥ*

O God! O Damodar! O Unlimited! O Overlord! I bow down in obeisance to your Lotus Feet. Kindly be gracious to me as I am submerged in the ocean of series of sufferings due to my aversion to you. Please rescue me— a wretched soul, from the aforesaid severe suffering by showering your compassionate glance and appear before me with your natural sweet Form.

Verse 7 *kuverātmajau baddha-mūrtyaiva yad-vat*

*tvayā mocitau bhakti-bhājau kṛtau ca
tathā prema-bhaktim svakām me prayaccha
na mokṣe graho me `sti dāmodareha*

O Damodar! You accepted mother's tie of affection— your fastening with the mortar and make the pastimes of liberating deserving persona Nalakuver and Manigriv, sons of Sri Kuver and bestow bhakti upon them. In a like manner, kindly give me the same Prembhakti. I do not aspire for salvation like Nalakuver and Manigriv. (I want only pure devotion to you to engage me completely in your service.)

Verse 8 *namas te `stu dāmne sphurad dīpti-dhāmne
tvadiyodarāyātha viśvasya dhāmne
namo rādhikāyai tvadiya priyāyai
namo `nanta-līlāya devāya tubhyam*

O Damodar! I bow with devoutness to the blooming bright fastening cord of your belly. After that I also make my humble obeisance to your belly as receptacle of the whole universe (Brahmanda). I make prostrated obeisances to your dearest consort Srimati Radhika and also to you— Supreme Lord, endowed with the opulence of making infinite pastimes.

Brief Introduction

His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhakti Ballabh Tīrtha Gosvāmī Mahārāj is the foremost spiritual leader of the mission of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and His associates in the world today. His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhakti Ballabh Tīrtha Gosvāmī Mahārāj is the present President-Ācārya of the Śrī Caitanya Gauḍīya Maṭha devotional institution and the Founder of GOKUL (Global Organisation of Kṛṣṇacaitanya's Universal Love). He also serves as president of the World Vaiṣṇava Association (WVA).

Śrīla Bhakti Ballabh Tīrtha Gosvāmī Mahārāj appeared in 1924 in Assam, India, on Rāma-Navamī. While studying at the Calcutta University, he came in contact with his spiritual master, His Divine Grace Śrīla Bhakti Dayita Mādhava Gosvāmī Mahārāj, and immediately became attracted by his transcendental, powerful personality. After completing his Masters Degree in Philosophy in 1947, Śrīla Tīrtha Mahārāj wholeheartedly and unreservedly dedicated his life to the service of his spiritual master. After the disappearance of his beloved spiritual master Śrīla Mādhava Mahārāj in 1979, Śrīla Tīrtha Mahārāj was appointed as President-Ācārya of the Sree Chaitanya Gauḍīya Matha.

For the last five decades, Śrīla Tīrtha Mahārāj has been engaged in the propagation of the all-embracing doctrine of transcendental Divine Love of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu to counter the present trend of violence and cruelty, and to bring about unity of hearts among all, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. "Example is better than precept" is his way of preaching. Śrīla Tīrtha Mahārāj is known for not deviating even one inch outside of the four corners of the prescripts of the Holy Scriptures. His Divine Grace is a renowned authority on Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava philosophy and is beloved by thousands of devotees throughout the world as the very embodiment of humility and spiritual affection.

Since 1997, Srila Bhakti Ballabh Tirtha Goswami Maharaja has been traveling the globe several months a year enlivening all who come in contact with his sweet personality and message of divine love.

His Divine Grace has authored numerous articles and books of a profoundly spiritual nature in several Indian languages, as well as in

English. To date, his books in English include Śuddha Bhakti, Sages of Ancient India, A Taste of Transcendence, Śrī Caitanya: His Life and Associates, Daśavatāra, Nectar of Hari Kathā The Holy life of Śrīla B. D. Mādhava Gosvāmī Mahārāj, Guru Tattva, Affectionately Yours, Sri Archana Paddhati and Hari Kathā and Vaiṣṇava Aparādha.